

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

WORK SESSION January 28, 2004 General Administration Building Olympia, WA

Board Members Present: Chair Sharon Colby, Jim Potts, Jim Broman, TJ Nedrow, Liz Loomis, Mark Kahley and Janet Paulson

Board Members Absent: Joe Coultman

WSP Staff Present: State Fire Marshal Mary Corso and Ellen Tombleson

Guests Present: Pat Jollota

OPENING

Sharon opened the meeting at approximately 9:15, and congratulated Liz Loomis, who was recently elected Mayor of the city of Snohomish. Liz advised that due to her new responsibilities, it will be necessary to resign her position on the Board. She did advise that she would work with the Association of Washington Cities to help find a replacement.

LEGISLATION

Mary distributed a copy of SB 6505, which would require the FPPB to conduct an assessment of fire suppression capability in the interface areas between wildland and urban areas throughout the state. Mary advised that her fiscal note on this bill included a request of \$125,000 for a facilitator/recorder so the study can be facilitated by a 3rd party.

Following discussion on this issue, it was agreed by consensus that the FPPB would support the bill, based on existing Board policies (# 4 and #10) which are in concert with the intention of this bill. When this bill is heard, it was agreed that Jim Potts will testify on behalf of the Board, and that Sharon will attend the hearing if she is available.

Mary also distributed a copy of HB 3002, which is an agency bill relating to declaration of burn bans. This bill adds a new section to chapter 48.48 RCW which states that whenever the State Fire Marshal finds that conditions of extreme fire hazard exists and that state resources or the protection of life and property may be in danger, the State Fire Marshal may recommend to the governor that all outdoor burning on public and private lands throughout the state, or within certain portions of the state, that all outdoor burning be prohibited.

CREDENTIALING

Mary advised that she has recently served on a national credentialing Committee for the Department of Homeland Security, who is looking at how they could credential first responders. They requested that the USFA engage in the first attempt to develop a system for credentialing firefighters. Mary provided a handout which details some of the credentials that were identified as qualifications that could be put into a system that could consist of a smart card or bar coded badge that could be read when a person checked into an incident, which could readily identify their credentials. Mary will provide further information on this process as it develops.

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INTRODUCTION OF WSP CHIEF

Recently appointed WSP Chief Lowell Porter was introduced to the Board. He advised that he supports the activities of the Fire Protection Policy Board and the Fire Protection Bureau, and that it is his goal to represent all 6 Bureaus within the WSP equally.

REPORTS

Jim Potts advised that there he has no E-911 Committee updates since the last meeting.

Jim Broman advised that the SIEC is continuing their progress. They have completed the inventory of state government assets, and the next step will be to conduct an inventory of local government assets. Their next milestone will be the development of an Interim Plan, which has a deadline for completion of March 31. The main goal for the Committee is to ensure communication interoperability.

TJ Nedrow advised that he now sits on the Public Safety Advisory Group, which is funded through the United States Department of Transportation. This group brings law enforcement and fire together to improve mobility on transportation systems. Chief Porter added that the Joint Operating Policy Statement (WSP and DOT) designed to reduce impacts through incident response and scene management remains a priority.

TJ also advised that he has been appointed to the NFPA 1720 Deployment Standards Committee.

MOBILIZATION PLAN UPDATES

Dave Wakefield reviewed the packet of fire mobilization plan revisions (Sections 1-5 and Section 14). Lineout/strikethrough versions, along with a revised copy were provided. The result of the revisions include a reduction in the number of pages, smaller paragraphs with more bulleted information, a change in the look, by including the "M" logo on all pages and locating all related information in one location for consistency.

Dave thanked Dan Johnson for his support role in the revision of the plan. In response to a question regarding imminent danger trigger points, Dave clarified that the revision spells out the consideration of imminent danger trigger points to initiate mobilization when not yet on fire district land.

Section 14 will be submitted as a Decision Item at the February 25 regular meeting. Dave also advised that the State Fire Defense Committee will address the issue of defining "qualified resources" in the plan and to ensure that IMT qualified personnel are being dispatched.

Dave advised that he will provide an overview of the revised plan on a section by section basis at the November 2004 Work Session. It was further suggested that Chief Porter be invited to attend the presentation as he will be the person responsible for taking the recommendation forward from the Policy Board to approve the recommended changes in the plan to OFM.

The Board thanked Dave and the State Fire Defense Committee for their efforts, and asked that he pass on their appreciation to the State Fire Defense Committee.

REGIONAL FUNDING

Jim Broman provided an overview of the regional funding and the establishment of 3 councils in each region, funded at 30,000 per year, which was initiated in the early 90's to provide increased local capacity. He questioned if the grant funding is the best way to spend resources, as he feels that the benefit tends to go towards a core group in populated areas, rather than be region-wide resources. Following discussion on whether continuing to fund the regions is accomplishing what it was intended for, it was agreed that this needs to be a policy issue on a future agenda, with 3 year data available that details how the money was utilized and who it is benefiting.

Sharon requested that Ellen review previous FPPB minutes and have any information regarding discussion on regional funding available for review when this issue is addressed at a future meeting.

2004 MEETING CHANGES

Following a review of calendars and possible conflicts, it was agreed that the November 17, 2004 Regular meeting be rescheduled to November 10 at 10:30 following a Work Session scheduled for the same day, beginning at 9:00.

BASIC FIREFIGHTER TRAINING PROGRAM

In discussion regarding the marketing of the Basic Firefighter Training Program, Sharon urged everyone to think outside of the box to identify new avenues for marketing the program. It was suggested that articles should be submitted to as many statewide newsletters as possible. It was also suggested that Board members submit synopsis of the FPPB meetings to their own associations' newsletters. Sharon requested that Ellen start a list of all of the newsletters that she is aware of. Jim Potts suggested that articles could be submitted to an email distribution list that could be created.

Dr. Bob Barnard provided a handout detailing proposed make up and possible activities of the Training Committee, along with a draft letter to be sent out under Mary and Sharon's signatures to the Fire Service organizations, soliciting nominations for representatives on the Committee.

Bob will prepare this information to be placed on the February Agenda as a Decision Item.

FPPB POCKET CARDS

Draft samples of the pocket cards were distributed. Following discussion, it was agreed that the sample should be revised to replace the individual Board Members names and contact information with the association/organization names and website information. It was further suggested that the card could have slash cuts, to allow the Board Members to insert their business cards.

DNR/PNWCG

Mark Kahley provided information on the payment process for the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group, and advised that DNR is looking at the possibility of taking over as the agency, making payment to fire districts who participate on federal fires. The volunteers would be billed as an employee and DNR would just receive one bill. They would not have to manage each individual volunteer anymore. This system would be managed on a voluntary basis, where just those districts that have a payroll system would be eligible to participate in. Mark also clarified that this would not be for out of state dispatch.

Next Meeting:

February 25, 2004 – 9:00

General Administration Building

WSP HQ Conference Room

Approved:

Sharon Colby, FPPB Chair

(Date)

